(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) At macro level, the existing storage capacity is adequate to store the available stocks. However in order to take care of any deficiency at local levels, Field Officers of Food Corporation of India have been delegated powers for hiring additional storage capacity from Private Parties as well as Government agencies like Central Warehousing Corporation|State Warehousing Corporation, State Governments etc. Besides, various steps like expediting the on-going construction of godons, enhancement of Cover and Plinth capacity of Food Corporation of India, encouraging private parties to construct godowns etc. are being taken to provide additional storage capacity for foodgrains as a long term strategy.

(c) and (d) Food Corporation of India proposes to construct an additional storage capacity of 1.43 lakh tonnes in the country during the year 1995-96, subject to availability of suitable land/ funds etc. Food Corporation of India has a proposal to construct a godown at Bharuch in Gujarat.

Open sale of wheet and rice by FCI

3167. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item in 'Observer' of 1st March, 1995 under the caption "FCI's open sale of wheat, rice made more attractive";

(b) if so, the reasons for such open sales instead of larger releases through the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(c) whether superfine rice is being supplied to the Fair Price Shops in Delhi and other areas for distribution through PDS;

(d) if so, the quantities of super fine rice released in different States and Union Territories during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 and the issue price of the same: and

(e) offtake of variety-wise rice and wheat through PDS in different States/ Union Territories during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Food Corporation of India has been permitted to sell rice and wheat which is in excess of the PDS requirements of States/UTs, in the open maket for the following reasons/objectives:

(1) to release much needed storage space for the current procurement seasons for rice and wheat.

(2) to reduce the carrying cost of stocks held by FCI.

(3) to exercise, as a measure of market intervention a sobering influence on the open market prices of rice and wheat; and

(4) to reduce to some extent the food subsidy amount.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Superfine rice is supplied in Delhi and in other places under Public Distribution System. The State Government (s) and|or their nominees lift common|fine or superfine rice for distribution through Fair Price Shops according to the availability and local requirements.

CENTRAL ISSUE PRICE (Rs./per qtl.)

PDS

	Wheat	Rice		
		Common	Fine	Superfine
11-1-93	330	437	497	518
1-2-94	402	537	617	648

RPDS

	Wheat	Rice		
		Common	Fine	Superfine
11-1-93	280	387	447	468
1-2-94	352	487	567	598

The statistics regarding the variety-wise details of the quantities of rice issued in different States are not centrally maintained. The statewise details of the total quantities of rice and wheat issued in the last three years are given in the enclosed statement. [*See* Appendix 173, Annexure No. 70].

Disposal of rice Mills

3168. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 912 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) wishes to dispose of remaining 12 rice mills;

(b) if so, what is the plan and time schedule of FCI to do the same and what is the price per mill vis-a-vis to the investment made they are expecting from such disposal; and

(c) what was the basis on which the earlier 13 mills were disposed of and how much amount was received by FCI from such disposals and what were the names and addresses of those parties who had bought those mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) In the first instance, the food Corporation of India has offered the plants and machinery of the remaining 12 Modern Rice Mills on "as is where is" basis to the respective State Governments and their agencies. Their response is still awaited. The Corporation has not fixed any time schedule and price for disposing of the plants and machinery of these mills.

(c) The 13 Modern Rice Mills were disposed of earlier by inviting open tenders. An amount of Rs. 48.58 lakhs has so far been realised from such disposals. A further sum of Rs. 8.02 lakhs is expected from these disposals as soon as a few disputes pending in various courts are settled. The names and addresses of the parties who had bought/offered to buy the 13 Mills earlier are annexed as Statement.